

cont ID NO:3] in conjunction with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

C 3 P 4 25. A method of screening for a compound which specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 13, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a plurality of compounds;
- b) contacting the polypeptide with said plurality of compounds; and
- c) detecting binding of the polypeptide to at least one of said plurality of compounds, thereby identifying the compound which specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 13.

REMARKS

Pending claims 13 and 20-24 were subject to an oral Restriction Requirement.

Applicants affirm election, with traverse, of original claims 13 and 20, corresponding to the invention of Group I. Applicants submit that the invention encompassed by the claims of Group I (drawn to a polypeptide and a composition thereof) could be examined at the same time as the invention encompassed by the claims of Group II (drawn to an antibody, an antagonist, and a composition comprising the antagonist). For example, a search of the prior art to determine the novelty of the polypeptide of the invention would provide information regarding the novelty of an antibody which specifically binds and antagonizes the polypeptide.

Accordingly, because the search required to identify prior art relevant to the claims of Groups I and II would substantially overlap, Applicants respectfully submit that examination of originally filed claims 13 and 20-23 would not pose a serious burden. Thus, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and examination of the claims in Groups I and II.

The above amendments to claims 13 and 20 were made to further clarify the invention. New claim 25 was added to further clarify the invention and is supported by the specification, for example, on page 19, lines 40-41, and page 20, lines 1-16. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.